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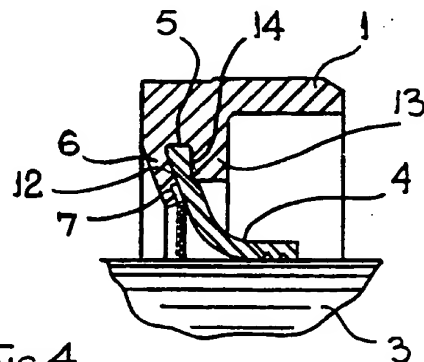
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(54) **Annular seals.**

(57) A rotary shaft seal comprising one member (1) with an annular channel (5) to receive a radial edge of an annular sealing element (4), and a radially extending lip portion (6) that forms one side of the channel (5), and is crimped axially inwards to grip the sealing element (4), said lip portion (6) being formed with a plurality of notches (7) spaced around its circumference so as to define a serrated edge which grips the sealing element (4) when the lip (6) is crimped inwards. The notches (7) enhance the grip of the lip (6) on the sealing element (4) to resist rotational forces. The notches (7) may be formed by grooves in a radial face (12) of said lip portion (6) that forms said one side of the channel (5), or in an axially extending face of the lip portion (6) so as to open onto said one side (12) of the channel.



**FIG. 4.**

**EP 0 394 025 A1**

## ANNULAR SEALS

Technical Field

This invention relates to annular seals such as rotary shaft seals.

Rotary shaft seals are commonly known in which an annular sealing element is secured at its outer edge to a housing and engages the shaft at its inner edge. The outer edge of the sealing element is received in a channel in the housing and the housing is crimped to partially close the channel and grip the sealing element. However, there is a problem with this method of securing the sealing element in that it is not always sufficient to hold the sealing element against the circumferential forces exerted on it by the rotating shaft, and the sealing element can rotate with the shaft. This damages the sealing element and results in seal failure.

Disclosure of the Invention

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved rotary shaft seal in which the sealing element is held more securely against rotation.

This is achieved according to the invention by providing an annular channel in one member to receive a radial edge of the annular sealing element, said one member having a radially extending lip portion that forms one side of the channel and is crimped axially inwards to grip the sealing element, characterised in that said lip portion is formed with a plurality of notches spaced around its circumference so as to define a serrated edge which grips the sealing element when the lip is crimped inwards. Thus the notches help to enhance the grip of the lip on the sealing element so that it resists rotational forces exerted on it by contact of its radially free edge with another member that rotates relative to said one member.

The notches may be formed by grooves in a radial face of said lip portion that forms said one side of the channel, or in an axially extending face of the lip portion so as to open onto said one side of the channel.

Description of the Drawings

The invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is half an axial section of a rotary seal according to a first embodiment of the invention,

Figure 2 is an axial end view of the seal in

Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a side elevation of a tool used to cut grooves in the lip that grips the sealing element in Figure 1,

Figure 4 is half an axial section of a rotary seal according to a second embodiment of the invention,

Figure 5 is an axial end view of the seal in Figure 4,

Figure 6 is a side elevation of a tool used to punch grooves in the lip that grips the sealing element in Figure 4, and

Figure 7 is an axial end view of the tool of Figure 6.

Best Mode of Carrying Out the Invention

The rotary seal illustrated in Figure 1 comprises an outer annular housing 1 that fits over a rotary shaft 3. An annular sealing element 4 is provided between the housing 1 and shaft 3 and comprises a planar ring of polymeric material. The outer radial edge of the sealing ring 4 is located in an annular channel 5 in the housing 1 and is retained therein by a lip portion 6 of the housing that forms one side of the channel and is crimped inwards to partially close the channel and grip the sealing ring. The sealing ring 4 extends radially inwards and curves axially so as to engage the shaft 3 in face-to-face sealing contact at its inner edge.

The annular channel 5 is of rectangular section before the lip portion 6 is crimped. Also, the inner edge of the lip portion 6 is pre-formed with a plurality of grooves 7 extending axially across its full width and spaced regularly around its inner circumference. Figures 1 and 2 show these grooves 7 in a slightly exaggerated form for reasons of clarity, but in practice they may be relatively shallow, typically having a depth of 0.1 to 0.2 mm. Further, these grooves are typically V-shaped having a base angle of 90 degrees. Typically, the grooves may be equispaced around the inner circumference of the lip portion 6 at a circular pitch of between 1 and 1.5 mm.

Figure 3 illustrates a tool that could be used to form the grooves 7 comprising a disc portion 8 provided with a series of ridges 9 around its outer annular peripheral surface that are directed parallel to the axis of the disc and are shaped to form the grooves 7 when inserted axially into the open end of the housing 1 adjacent the lip portion 6. A lead-in portion 10 of the tool, coaxial with the disc portion 8, helps to locate the tool in the housing 1

during insertion. A spigot 11 on the tool is provided to control the axial depth of insertion of the tool in the housing.

During assembly of the sealing ring 4 in the channel 5, a crimping tool is used having a frusto-conical face that engages the axial outer face of the lip portion 6 and forces it inwardly to partially close the channel 5, as shown in Figure 1. It will be appreciated that the inner ends of the grooves 7 define a serrated edge where they open onto the inner face of the lip portion 6, and that this cooperates with the inner edge of the sealing ring 4 to enhance gripping of the sealing ring, thereby more securely restraining it against the forces of rotation exerted on it by frictional contact with the shaft 3.

The second embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figure 4 comprises an outer annular housing 1, a rotary shaft 3, an annular sealing ring 4 located at its outer edge in an annular channel 5 in the housing 1 and retained therein by a crimped lip portion 6. This general construction is similar to that of the first embodiment shown in Figure 1, however, it differs in the manner in which grooves 7 are provided in the lip portion 6 to grip the sealing ring 4 when the lip portion is crimped inwardly to partially close the channel 5.

As shown in Figures 4 and 5, the lip portion 6 having a side wall 12 defining one side of the channel 5, extends radially inwards beyond the adjacent portion 13 of the housing 1 that forms the opposite side wall 14 of the channel 5. The side wall 12 of the lip portion 6 is formed with a plurality of radially extending grooves 7 around its circumference using the tool shown in Figures 6 and 7. This tool has an end face 15 formed with a plurality of radially extending ridges 16 that form the corresponding pattern of grooves 7 in the side wall 12 when the tool is inserted axially into the housing in a pre-forming coining operation. The actual form of the grooves may typically comprise grooves 0.1 to 0.2mm deep having V-shape cross-sections with 90 degree base angles, and spaced on a pitch of between 1 and 1.5mm around the innermost periphery of the lip portion 6.

After the sealing ring 4 is inserted into the channel 5 in the housing 1, the lip portion 6 is crimped inwards against the sealing ring by a suitable crimping tool. The grooves 7 on the inner side wall 12 then grip the sealing ring, especially around the partially closed mouth of the channel 5 where the grooves effectively form a serrated gripping edge.

#### Claims

1. A rotary shaft seal comprising one member having an annular channel to receive a radial edge

of an annular sealing element and a radially extending lip portion that forms one side of the channel and is crimped axially inwards to grip the sealing element, characterised in that said lip portion is formed with a plurality of notches spaced around its circumference so as to define a serrated edge which grips the sealing element when the lip is crimped inwards.

2. A seal as claimed in claim 1 in which a radial face of said lip portion forming said one side of the channel is formed with said notches in the form of a plurality of radially extending grooves.

3. A seal as claimed in claim 2 in which said lip portion extends radially beyond an adjacent portion of said one member that forms a side of the channel opposite said one side.

4. A seal as claimed in claim 3 in which said grooves are formed in said one side of the lip portion that extends beyond the adjacent portion of said one member.

5. A seal as claimed in claim 1 in which the notches are formed as grooves in an axially extending face of the lip portion so as to open onto said one side of the channel.

6. A seal as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which said one member has a central bore to receive a rotary shaft for engagement by said sealing element.

7. A method of securing a radial edge of an annular sealing element in an annular channel of one member of a seal assembly comprising the steps of forming a plurality of notches around the circumference of a lip portion that defines one side of said channel so as to define a serrated edge, and crimping the lip portion axially inwards to partially close said channel and cause said serrated edge to grip the sealing element.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7 in which the lip portion extends radially beyond an adjacent portion of said one member that forms the other side of said channel, and in which a tool is moved axially of said one member to form said notches in said one side of the lip portion that extends radially beyond the other side, the tool having a series of radially extending ridges that engage said one side in a forming operation.

9. A method as claimed in claim 7 in which the notches are formed as grooves in an axially extending face of the lip portion so as to open onto said one side of the channel, a tool being moved axially of said one member so that axially extending ridges formed on an annular surface of the tool engage said axially extending face of the lip portion in a forming operation.

10. A method as claimed in claim 8 or 9 in which the tool is inserted axially through a central bore of said one member in said forming operation, said central bore being adapted to receive a rotary



shaft for engagement by said sealing element.

11. A rotary shaft seal substantially as herein described with reference to Figures 1 to 3 or Figures 4 to 7 of the accompanying drawings.

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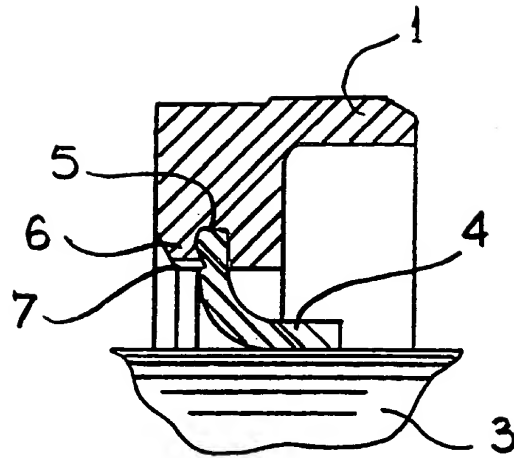


FIG. 1

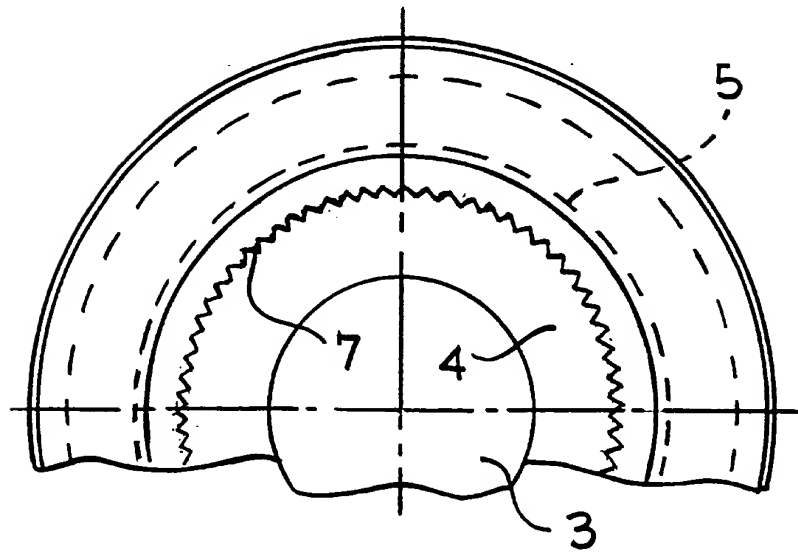
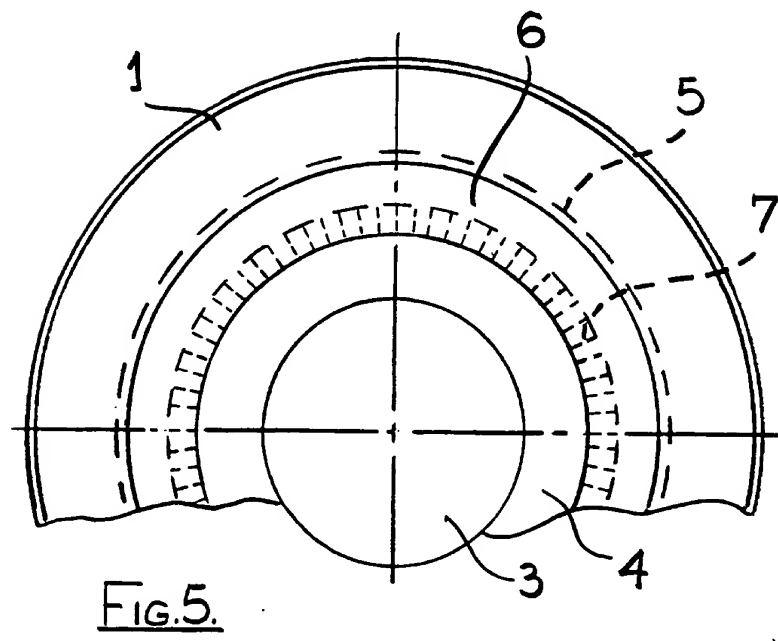
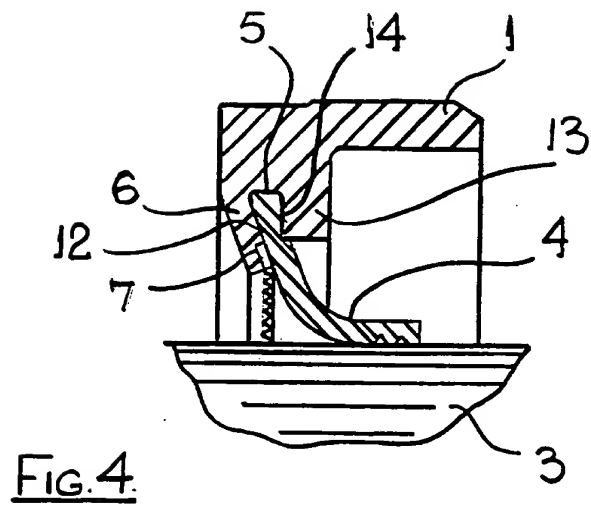


FIG. 2



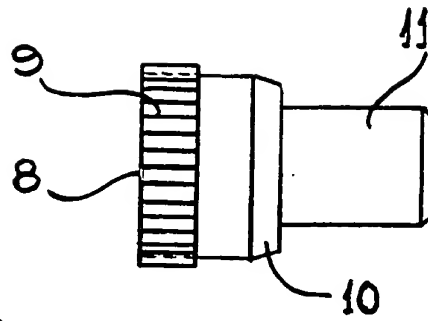


FIG. 3

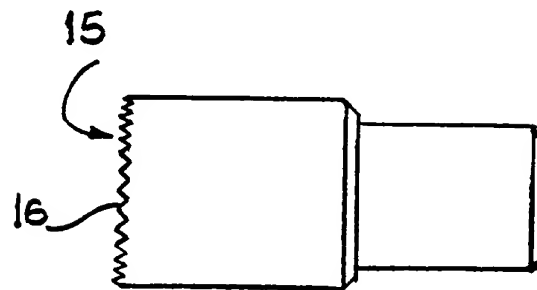


FIG. 6

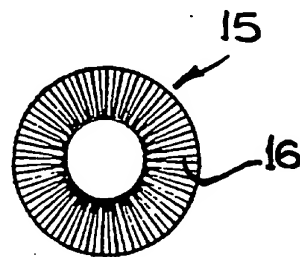


FIG. 7



European Patent  
Office

## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 30 4174

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	DE-3221526 (HÖLZER) * abstract; figures * ---	1	F16J15/32
A	US-A-1570186 (REPLOGLE) -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			F16J E06B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 19 JULY 1990	Examiner NARMINIO A.
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			